

**MINUTES OF THE STUDY SESSION MEETING
PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD
TOWN OF CHINO VALLEY**

**FEBRUARY 15, 2022
9:00 A.M.**

**CHINO VALLEY SENIOR CENTER
1021 W BUTTERFIELD RD, CHINO VALLEY, AZ**

Present: Dr. David Somerville, Board Member; Celia van der Molen, Board Member; Donna Armstrong, Vice-Chair; Richard Coleman, Board Member; Laury Holt, Board Member

Absent: Todd League, Chair; Guy Roginson, Board Member

Staff Present: Community Services Manager Cyndi Thomas; Facilities and Parks Manager Jason Olson; Assistant to the Town Manager Terri Denemy

1) CALL TO ORDER

Vice-Chair Donna Armstrong called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m.

2) ROLL CALL

3) Discussion regarding the Kite Festival.

Members discussed the following:

- Kite and model plane kits would be from Oriental Trading Company. The budget was approximately \$150.
- The middle school kids would get the larger kite kits, and children under seven would get a wind toy for the approximate cost of \$1. The first 100 kids over age seven would get a kite, and kids 11-13 would get a stealth kite kit.
- The homemade kite competition for 14–17-year old's would be removed because there may not be an interest in that age group.
- The budget for prizes and medals for competitions was approximately \$600.
- The weather balloons: A letter was received from National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) explaining that an area meteorologist could attend the event with a booth. A balloon launch could not happen at the event because all the equipment was permanently fixed in another area. Dr. Mark Sinclair at Embry Riddle said a weather balloon could be launched at the school for a fee.
- An overview of possible volunteers was shared with the Board.
- Possible sponsors and donors were reviewed.
- A banner, logo, and school brochure had been developed.

4) Discussion regarding by-law revision.

Members discussed the following:

- Staff agreed that it was a number one priority of the Board.
- Members discussed focusing on the budget and waiting to discuss the by-laws.
- Staff explained that the by-law changes would need to go to the Town attorney for approval before going to the Council.
- Staff explained that no other board or committee in the Town had written their own by-laws, and the process for the rewrite needed to be determined.

5) Discussion regarding the Old Home Manor preliminary plan.

Members discussed the following:

- A concept of OHM was shared with the Board.
- The area around the ballfields would have an RV Park.
- Members discussed the potential area and expansion area.
- The OHM ballfields were no longer useable. The biggest complaint they had at the current fields was that field #4 did not have lights. It would cost approximately \$500,000 to get lighting to the field. The field on Road 1 East and Perkinsville was recently redone. The amount of use on the field did not warrant any new fields in any other location.
- Members needed to determine what they wanted to include on the OHM concept for the preliminary plan for presentation.
- Members thought there were numerous possibilities because the area was flat and there was already access in and out of the area that could handle large events.
- Ideas included volleyball, picnic area (plans were to put picnic benches near the 9/11 Memorial area), BBQ pits, amphitheater, grassed area with walking trails, workout equipment, and parking.
- Members discussed concerns about making the park dog friendly because there were already dog parks. Staff explained dog ordinances would need to be followed and dogs could not be off leash.
- Members discussed the future growth of the business park and the usefulness of having the park for use by those businesses. The RV Park could also use the area.
- Members discussed upcoming UTV events at OHM.
- Members discussed a community lake. The community center park was supposed to have an amphitheater and lake. It could be repurposed for OHM.
- A Board Member could prepare a conceptual preliminary plan.
- Members discussed a skate park, but thought it brought too many safety and vandalism issues.

OHM Amenities and Features:

- A large indoor sporting facility. The building would be a substantial cost
- Pond/Lake for all types of water sports (reclaimed water)
- Sports field extensions
- Dry camping for groups like Boy Scouts. There may be dry camping at the proposed RV Park
- Future dog park
- Nature Center
- Peavine Trail connections to various areas of Town
- Mountain Bike Trails
- Nine hole or mini golf Course
- Volleyball Court
- Amphitheater
- Walking trails and grassy area

- Trail workout equipment
- Ice rink
- Outdoor festival area
- Restrooms and concession stands

6) Discussion regarding the Center Street Park plan.

This item was heard after Roll Call but is retained here for clarity.

Members discussed the following:

Dog Park

- There had been discussion at the previous meeting to move the existing dog park to Center Street Park.
- Board Member van der Molen had drawn plans to show what the dog park could look like. Staff explained that the project had not been approved and was only in the discussion phase. There was discussion that the dog park had been ignored for many years, but finally had money allocated specifically for it for the first time. If the project was approved, it could take several months for it to be up and running. Staff needed the board to either recommend moving forward or not regarding moving the dog park to Center Street.
- The new area would be twice the size of the current dog park. One plan design (#3) was 16,980 square feet and was the exact same size as the smaller dog park at the big dog park in Prescott. They could add two dog cells on the left side for more running space. Members liked the three-cell plan so that the cell use could be rotated.
- The fence would be latched, and dogs should be leashed from the car until the dog has reached the enclosed fenced area.
- Members discussed possible noise issues and the fact that there were few residential homes in the area. The park would have turf or artificial grass and already had many trees. Members discussed tree maintenance and appropriate types of trees for the park.
- There was concern expressed about the parking lot being too close to the street because dogs could bolt and run into the road. Members discussed the busier street at the current location and that the proposed location was on a residential street. They had not put a children's park at Center Street Park because there was not enough supervision on the park for safety reasons. There were 20-parking areas, as well as street parking.
- A walking trail was added to the drawing because dog parks brought people together.
- It was suggested that a safe small dog only cell could be created on half a cell and more parking could be created from the other half. Members discussed the difficulty in keeping small dogs and large dogs separated without someone enforcing a size limit. There were also small dogs that enjoyed playing with big dogs, and big dogs that hated small dogs.
- Members thought the dog park would be utilized more if it were located within a neighborhood. It also was a good socialization tool for the community.
- The idea of renting the smaller cell for dog training for a certain number of hours and closed to public use was discussed. Staff thought that could be a selling point for having three cells.
- Money that had been raised specifically for the Old Home Manor dog park, had been put in the General Fund and never used for what it was intended for.
- Bathroom facilities were discussed. The property had a house with septic at one point, but staff was unclear of the current status of the system. Members discussed the possibility of using port-a-potties because often times bathroom facilities and BBQ facilities were left in disarray by transient users.

Senior Only Park

- A senior only park was proposed as a use for the park. Activities included shuffle boards, bocce ball, horseshoe pit, walking park, exercise equipment, etc. Some of these were already at Memory Park and there were plans to add exercise equipment. The existing bocce ball court had never been used since installed in 2005. The horseshoe pits had not been used since 2017 except for private picnic parties. Members thought one issue could be the lack of access to the necessary equipment but did not know how to resolve the issue for easy access.
- Staff shared ideas that had been discussed for recreational expansion.
 - Expand and build on the existing senior center that already provided exclusivity. Butterfield Road could be closed for a senior park. Members discussed possible layouts.
 - Center Street Community Garden at Center Street Park.

Pickleball Courts

- Staff discussed the possibility for budgeting for four new pickleball courts. The proposed location was next to the new playground equipment, but it was recently determined by a staff member who was a certified playground specialist, that the courts were too close to the playground equipment. There was no other suitable location without removing necessary parking areas.
- Staff suggested that eight brand-new pickleball courts could be built on the site of the current dog park, which was double the size of the original plan.
- Members discussed that the original pickleball location was picked because it was conveniently located next to the playground equipment so that people could keep an eye on their children.
- Staff explained that relocating the courts to an optimal position would allow the courts to be locked with passcode access, and the courts would become exclusively used for pickleball. The courts were currently shared with basketball players.
- Members discussed whether fencing the park would eliminate or reduce vandalism.
- Members discussed the need to modify the drainage area because based on the recreation plan developed over the years, the drainage went through the middle of the proposed pickleball courts. There was a plan to put a retention basin east of the basketball/pickleball courts, where the water would be diverted to flow out to the south and east.
- After measuring the proposed area by the playground equipment, staff determined that the courts would need to span out far enough, consequently eliminating the workers and public event entrance driveway to the park. Parking was at a premium in the area. The Town's North Campus building had more parking than the entire Community Center Park.
- Staff had contacted Prescott regarding their recent cost to build pickleball courts. Four courts cost approximately \$160,000. The Town had \$200,000 budgeted, and staff did not think asking for \$320,000 was an impossible number. The timeline for the project completion would be determined by the Council and the budget process. All capital projects were now on a Town wide five-year plan. There may be grants available to help pay for the courts. Members discussed grant opportunities.
- Staff was beginning to prepare for the new budget year and wanted to put the projects on the new budget forms if the Board wanted to move forward. They could make a formal motion at the next regular meeting.
- Members thought the Center Street dog park project and the new proposed eight court pickleball project should be presented together.
- Members discussed that a pool cover was in the Town's three-year goals.

7) Discussion regarding preparation of an upcoming Council presentation.

A general preliminary plan based on the Boards discussion and wish list would be drawn up to present to the Council.

8) Discussion regarding possible upcoming study session dates.

Members discussed the following:

- The study session had been very productive
- Staff thought they should have a monthly study session until their July presentation, around the 15th of each month, except for March.
- Members thought Thursdays were the best days.
- Members thought the 24th of March at 9:30 a.m. would work.
- Concentrate on presentation and bylaws.

9) ADJOURNMENT

Vice-Chair Donna Armstrong adjourned the meeting at 11:27 a.m.

Submitted: March 2, 2022.

By: *Sara Burchill, Deputy Town Clerk*

Approved: July 11, 2023.